

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular & budget meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at Public Works Department, 2198 Glendale Ave, Howard, WI

Present: Supervisors Norbert Dantine, Dave Kaster, Dave Landwehr, Bernie Erickson
Excused: Supervisor Tom Sieber
Vacant: Citizen Rep
Also Present: County Conservationist Mike Mushinski and Jim Bechle

****Audio of the meeting is available by contacting the County Board office (920) 448-4015.***

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 22, 2017.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public – None.

1. Open Position Report:

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski noted they had the same Agronomist position that had been open for a while. He received good news a few weeks ago, last year they applied for an EPA grant, which was GLRI funded and would go towards a 3-year staff person and to work in the upper east cover crops and buffers. It looked positive that they will get it. All the EPA grants were on hold since last November and they were starting to free up. They worked together with Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance; Brown County's contract and funding went through them and they did the grant and the administration. They were good to be involved because they coordinated efforts that went around in the whole lower Fox.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. May 2017 Financials:

Mushinski informed that everything looked good up through the mid part of the year. Some of the numbers for the 2016 and 2017 comparisons were different but that was because of the feasibility study money coming in and out.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Directors Report:

a. Demonstration Farm and EQIP Agreement with NRCS- Update.

Mushinski informed they had been working on this since March; a new agreement with NRCS to fund the

Demonstration Farm Network for 2018 and 2019. It also funded an Engineering position which did a lot of the Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) work. Both very valuable. NRCS funded 75% and Brown County funded 25%. It was a real important agreement with NRCS. He informed they contacted him a couple weeks ago and they want to extend it for another year. As those monies were freeing up through EPA, they think there was another year to tack on through 2020.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file Item 3a. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Community Digester Feasibility Study- Update.

Dynamics, the contractor hired to do the study, their main goal was to focus on \$20 million of state money through Focus on Energy that was available. They were putting together a grant to try and get some of that money in the county to do the digester. They will have site layouts and design work ready in a week or two. They were working with Guardian and Michaels Pipeline for cost estimates on the cost to hookup a digester to the Guardian pipeline. There was some interest with companies that could extract the liquids and some that could extract the solids from the manure after it got digested and they had two offers to purchase renewable natural gas from the project already. They needed to continue to work with the Town of Holland to make sure they were on board with what was being proposed. Comments from Dynamics was that this was the best one they had ever looked at as far as the availability of manure or substrate for the digester and because the Guardian Pipeline was so close. They had the manure and the organics and a way to get the natural gas into the pipelines. They were excited of the possibility that it would actually work on the Resource Recovery property, whom they were working concertedly with. When Dynamics started working on it Port & Resource Director Dean Haen got involved very early in the process to make sure he was aware of everything coming forward with this.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file Item 3b. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Application-Update.

Assistant County Conservationist Jon Bechle informed that the councils were started back in 2014. The state set it up as a 3-year seat on various stakeholder groups; he was on the original group as the agricultural representative. Those seats expired June 1st and they were having applications open until July 1. They were asking current members of councils to reapply if interested and he was going to reapply. There was a formal application process that asked for references. Last time the FSA representative was listed as a reference but they currently didn't have an FSA rep so with Dantine's permission, as Chairman of this committee, he'd be used as the reference, representing the committee and the department in Brown County collectively. There were 6 other seats on the council and not all were filled last time. This went statewide.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

4. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

5. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary